Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SS-15 SP-02 L-02 NSC-05

AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00

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R 051250Z MAR 75 FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 460 INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA AMEMBASSY ATHENS AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, SA, TU

SUBJECT: TURKEY AND THE U.S. CONGRESS

- 1. PRINCE SULTAN, SAUDI MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION, RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR MARCH 3 THE CONGRESSIONAL DECISION TO CUT OFF U.S. MILITARY AID TO TURKEY. THE PRINCE SAID THE SAG WAS FOLLOWING THE DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY BOTH BECAUSE OF THE INTEREST IN THE CYPRUS AFFAIR AND BECAUSE SAUDI ARABIA DID NOT WISH TO SEE THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE WEAKENED BY HAVING THE U.S. BASES IN TURKEY SHUT DOWN.
- 2. SULTAN SAID THAT THE REACTION OF THE TURKS WAS UNDERSTANDABLE. THE U.S. CONGRESS, CONSISTING PRESUMABLY OF MATURE PEOPLE VERSED, IF NOT IN WORLD POLITICS, THEN AT LEAST IN HUMAN PSYCHOLOGY, SHOULD HAVE FORESEEN THE REACTION OF A PROUD PEOPLE TO "INORDINATE PRESSURE." HE SAID "WE WOULD ACT THE SAME WAY."
- 3. PRINCE SULTAN SAID THAT WHILE NO ONE ASKED CONFIDENTIAL

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SAG FOR ITS VOTE ON THE MATTER, "WE FIND DR.

KISSINGER'S STAND 100 PERCENT RIGHT." SULTAN SAID, "WE HOPE ALL IS NOT LOST AND THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS WILL RECONSIDER ITS STAND." HE ADDED, "BY THE WAY, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN ANOTHER AREA WHERE WE COULD HAVE COOPERATED VERY QUIETLY WITH YOU TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED RESULTS, NAMELY, A COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD HAVE SMOOTHED THE RUFFLED FEATHERS OF OUR AROUSED MUTUAL FRIEND TURKEY. WE WISH YOU HAD ASKED."

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